



January 2023

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From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to the January 2023 edition of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCOHSEM) newsletter.

This newsletter contains information about various topics including Resolve To Be Ready, Winter Safety, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and continued preparedness tips on flooding.

So, this edition is full of details about several topics which we hope you find informative and helpful.

Resolve to Be Ready

Make a Resolution

- Make an emergency plan: Choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact.
- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster.
- Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Take a class in CPR and first aid.
- Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash.
- Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.



- Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund.
- Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#).
- Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond.
- Build up your savings. Put a small amount in your account the first of every month beginning January 1.



Preparedness Tips

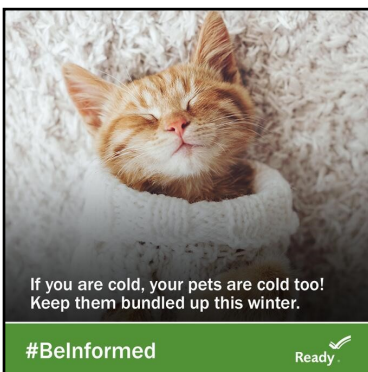
- Include cash in your emergency supply kit. During an extended power outage, ATMs and credit card machines may not work.
- Check-in with neighbors to see how you can help each other out before and after a storm.
- Pick an out-of-town person for everyone to contact during an emergency.
- Preparing your family for an emergency is as simple as having a conversation over dinner. Make a plan tonight.
- As part of your family's emergency supply kit, include games and toys to keep children entertained.
- Get prepared by having an emergency supply kit already stored. [www.ready.govkit](#) #ResolveToBeReady
- Snap pictures of your property and make an inventory for insurance purposes.
- 30: The number of days it takes for flood insurance to begin. The time to buy is when it's dry.
- If you rely on public transportation, contact your local emergency management agency about evacuation procedures before a hurricane.
- Make a list of the things you would need or want to take with you if you had to leave your home quickly.
- Prepare your car for winter: keep your gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Make a plan to check on neighbors if extreme cold or winter weather knocks out your power.

Preparedness Tips (continued)

- Learn how to shut off the utilities where you live, including water, electricity, and gas.
- #PrepTips: Take a first aid and CPR class. www.ready.gov/safetyskills #ResolveToBeReady
- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate. Don't forget to include pets in your plans! www.ready.gov/evacuation #ResolveToBeReady
- Assemble supplies for a "go-bag" you can carry if you need to evacuate www.ready.gov/evacuation #ResolveToBeReady #PrepTips
- Make a portable emergency kit for your car www.ready.gov/car #ResolveToBeReady
- Save. Save. Save. Your emergency savings can help you get life saving items like food, shelter, and water in an emergency. Saving tips: www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness #FinancialFuture
- 48% of people have an emergency fund, which gives them the savings to overcome simple emergencies. www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness #FinancialFuture

Planning with Pets

- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Search online today for local pet-friendly evacuation locations in case you need to evacuate.
- Update your pet's microchip registration info so you can be contacted if your pet gets lost in a disaster. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness






- Put your name and contact information on your pet's ID tag in case you're separated in an emergency. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Remember to include your pets in your family's emergency plans.

Winter Safety

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.

A winter storm can:

	Last a few hours or several days.
	Cut off heat, power and communication services.
	Put older adults, children, sick individuals and pets at greater risk.

How to Protect Yourself from Winter Weather

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY!!

Know your winter weather terms:

Winter Storm Warning

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

Know Your Risk for Winter Storms

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Listen for emergency information and alerts. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Weather Radio](#) also provide emergency alerts.

Preparing for Winter Weather

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights. If you are unable to afford your heating costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.



In Case of Emergency

Be prepared for winter weather at home, at work and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.

Stay Safe During Winter Weather

- Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

Learn the signs of and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia.



Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

- **Signs:** Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.



Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

Generator Safety

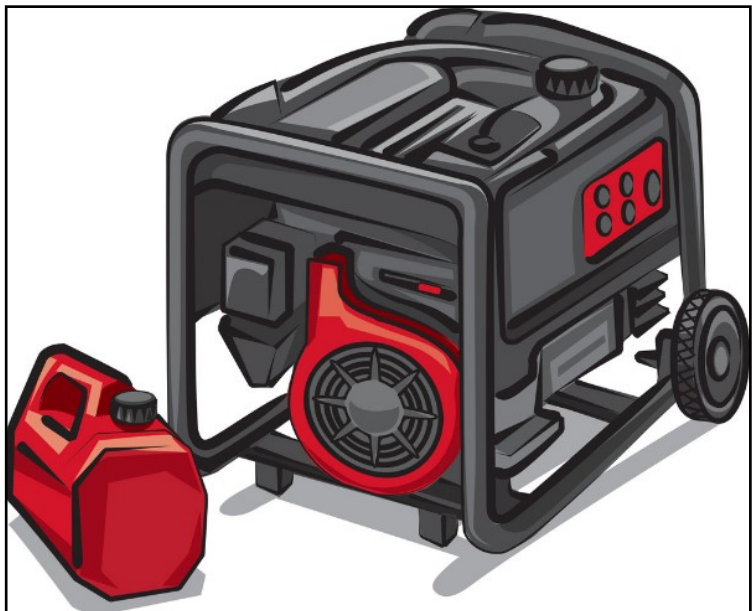


Generators can be helpful when the power goes out. It is important to know how use them safely to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and other hazards.



Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.


- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and *at least* 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.
- **Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home.** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions *carefully*.



Power Outage Safety


Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy. A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly. A power outage may:

- Disrupt communications, water and transportation.
- Close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks and other services.
- Cause food spoilage and water contamination.
- Prevent use of medical devices.



Ice Storms can Leave You in the Dark

- 💡 Ice weighs down trees and powerlines causing them to fall
- 💡 Power outages can last several days
- 💡 Make an emergency supply kit before the storm hits

weather.gov/winter 

Power Outage Tips

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Use a generator, but **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.
- Don not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternative plans for refrigeration medications or using power-dependent medical devices.

POWER OUTAGES



DO

Surround your food with ice in a cooler or refrigerator.

DO

Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home if you use a generator.

DON'T

Eat food exposed to temperatures higher than 40° F.

DON'T

Use candles for light. Instead, use a flashlight.

Returning After a Power Outage

- When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture.
- If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug's label says otherwise. Consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately for a new supply.

Eat Safe Food after a Power Outage



During a power outage, keep refrigerator & freezer doors closed

⚡ If the doors stay closed, food will stay safe for up to:



www.cdc.gov/foodsafety



4
Hours in a Refrigerator

48
Hours in a **FULL** Freezer



24
Hours in a **HALF-FULL** Freezer

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National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

#WearBlueDay: January 11

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th. In recognition of this important day, and throughout the month of January, Blue Campaign hosts several special events and educational activities.

Blue Campaign's largest initiative is #WearBlueDay on January 11th. To raise awareness of human trafficking, we invite the public to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram – along with our #WearBlueDay hashtag. Anyone can participate, all you need is a piece of blue clothing!

Follow @DHSBlueCampaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for more information about #WearBlueDay and campaign efforts throughout the year.



How to Participate (#WearBlueDay: January 11)



There are many ways you can get involved with #WearBlueDay. We look forward to seeing your creative ideas and photos on social media!

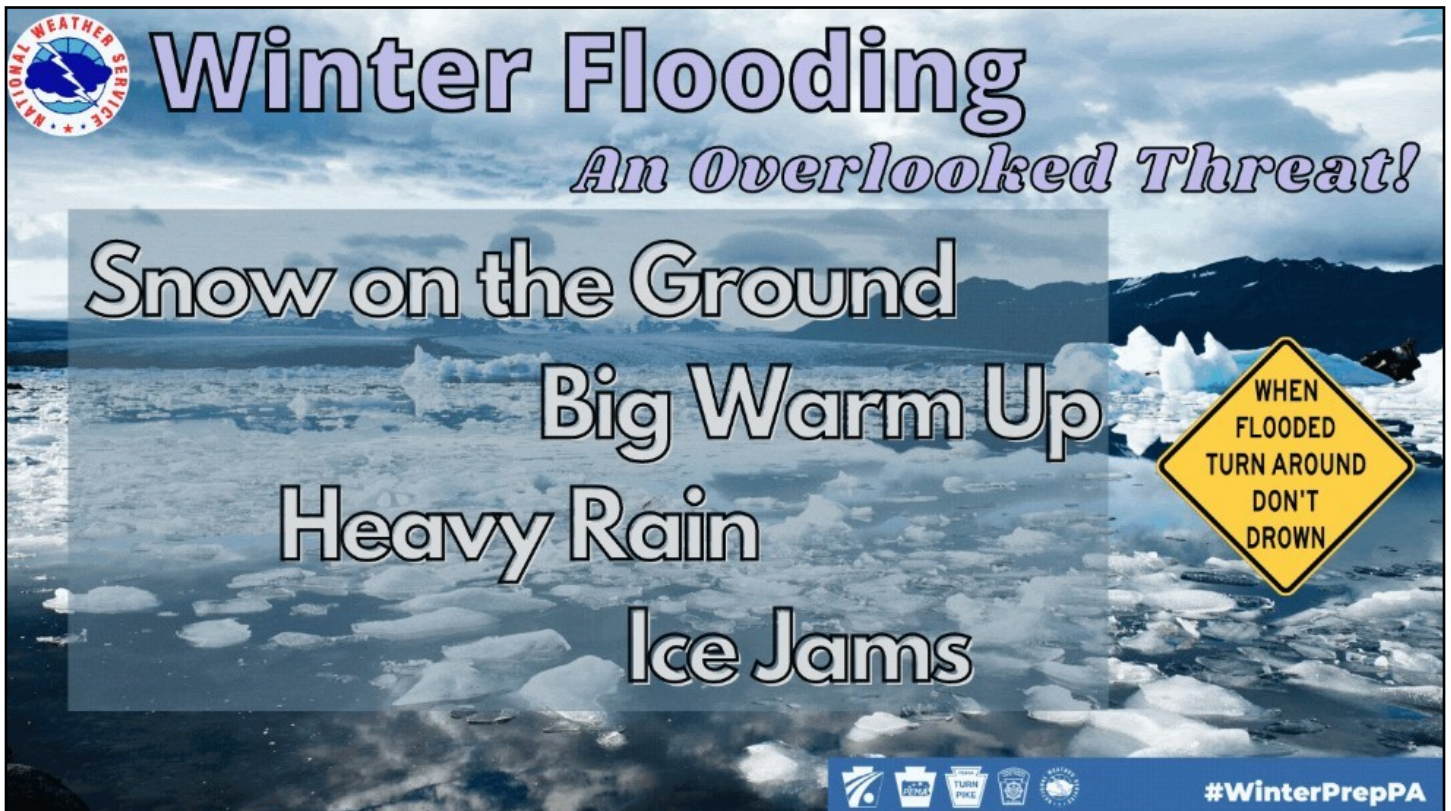
Need some inspiration? Here are a few ways you can participate in #WearBlueDay on January 11th:

- **Snap a selfie.** Have you picked out your outfit yet? We encourage you to wear blue (whether that's a shirt, uniform, or hat), take a photo of yourself, and post it to social media using #WearBlueDay. Encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to do the same.
- **Share a video.** Create a video message explaining why you are participating in #WearBlueDay. Post it on social media with #WearBlueDay and encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to do the same.
- **Take a group photo.** You don't have to be in person to take a group photo! Use one of your regular virtual meetings to encourage participation in #WearBlueDay and take a screen shot to post on social media. If you do gather in person for a #WearBlueDay photo, practice social distancing, wear a mask, and follow local guidelines to keep each other safe.
- **Challenge your friends, family, or colleagues.** Encourage your friends, family, or colleagues to get creative with their #WearBlueDay photos – while practicing social distancing – and see who comes up with the best picture. Remember to share on social media with #WearBlueDay!
- **Light up a landmark.** Los Angeles City Hall was lit blue and Mayor Eric Garcetti tweeted a photo of it with #WearBlueDay. Work with your local government to light a capitol building, landmark, or bridge blue to raise awareness of human trafficking. Use social media to post photos of the landmark with #WearBlueDay and why it's lit in blue.

Host a virtual event. Organize an online event, such as a panel discussion or documentary viewing, to foster discussion about human trafficking and how to recognize and report it. Encourage attendees and participants to wear blue and share photos on social media. Don't forget to use #WearBlueDay.

“
Programs like Wear Blue Day raise public awareness. This could lead to more eyes and ears on the street in areas law enforcement wouldn't normally have immediate access to.
”
Malik B., Human Trafficking Officer

Flooding



Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.

Floods may:

- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges and overflows of dams and other water systems.
- Develop slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning.
- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings and create landslides.

Preparing for a flood:

Know Your Risk for Floods

Visit [FEMA's Flood Map Service Center](#) to know types of flood risk in your area. Sign up for your community's warning system. The [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Purchase Flood Insurance

Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect so the time to buy is well before a disaster. [Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#).



Make a plan

[Make a plan](#) for your household, including [your pets](#), so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from flooding. Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response. Gather supplies, including non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days, in case you must leave immediately or if services are cut off in your area.

In Case of Emergency

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

Flooding (contd.)

If you are under a flood warning:

- Find safe shelter right away.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Depending on the type of flooding:
 - Evacuate if told to do so.
 - Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
 - Stay where you are.



Online FEMA Training

FEMA offers a number of online courses at <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. From this training portal, anyone can take their online independent study courses for free. There are over a hundred courses to that are available. You can also browse the schedules and information about their on-campus resident courses for those who are involved in emergency management in the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

JCOHSEM recommends the following FEMA Independent Study Courses. These courses are free and available online. After the course is completed an online test can be taken. Once the test is passed, you will receive a completion certificate.

IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System

Course Overview: ICS 100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System.

It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Primary Audience: The target audience includes persons involved with emergency planning, and response or recovery efforts.

Course Length: 2 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100](#)

IS-230.E: Fundamentals of Emergency Management

Course Description: The goal of this course is to provide all FEMA employees with basic information to prepare them for incident management and support activities. Additionally, this course will provide an overview of FEMA; introduce basic emergency management concepts; and provide a high-level look at how FEMA meets its mission.

Primary Audience: This entry-level course is designed for individuals new to the field of emergency management or persons with a desire to understand the fundamentals of emergency management.

Course Length: Approximately 6 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-230.E: Fundamentals of Emergency Management](#)

IS-907 : Active Shooter: What You Can Do

Course Overview: An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and other populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. All employees can help prevent and prepare for potential active shooter situations. This course provides guidance to individuals, including managers and employees, so that they can prepare to respond to an active shooter situation.

Primary Audience: All individuals, including managers and employees.

Course Length: 1 hour

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-907: Active Shooter: What You Can Do](#)

Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Committees

Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair

The Steering Committee works with the JCOHSEM director to guide the activities of JCOHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCOHSEM is a department within the Jefferson County Commission, who has overall responsibility for the department and its employees. The Jefferson County Commission appoints all members to the steering committee. This committee meets following the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meetings held on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Please call the office for exact dates, locations, and times.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Paula Marrone-Reese, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee is responsible to communicate the organization's activities to the public and to build support for JCOHSEM's programs. They work with the director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCOHSEM, the opportunities for additional involvement and support by updating citizens and businesses about what the partners are doing and how the community will and is benefiting from these efforts. This committee is responsible in assisting the director in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee examines the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. An All Hazards Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, West Virginia Emergency Management Division of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security (WVEMD) and FEMA in July 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 plan was approved by WVEMD and FEMA in June 2013 and the 2018 plan was approved in November 2018. We are in the process of updating the plan at this time.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Stephen Allen, Chair

Membership to this sub-committee of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee is limited to members of law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security, emergency communications, Red Cross, schools, health care, fire companies, ambulance authority/EMS, and government, due to sensitive homeland security issues. The committee works on issues of planning and training for counterterrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees,
contact Stephen Allen at sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

Times, dates, and places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts,
or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation.

If you have questions, call the JCOHSEM office at (304) 728-3290.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY;
PUBLIC TRUST**



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Volunteer and community participation is encouraged and welcome. We currently have committees on All Hazards Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; and, a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group.

We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, StormReady, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCOHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

January Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls, every Monday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.
- WV State weather calls, on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m.
- WV Emergency Management Council calls each Tuesday at 9 a.m.
- BERP Meeting is scheduled for January 5th.
- Public Awareness/Training/Education Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 11th.
- Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 17th.